SOU YUUKI
Romance
The Magic Touch
PART 10

GIVING A PRESENT, PART ONE

¥
HOW SHOULD I DO THE WRAPPING?
YOU'RE GIVING THAT AS A PRESENT? THAT'S REALLY NICE.
IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING SMALL AND CUTE.
I WENT TO BUY A PRESENT 'CAUSE IT'S ALMOST YUNA'S BIRTHDAY.
...
IT COMES OUT LIKE "BA!" AND THEN IT'S LIKE "RGAR!" AND THEN IT'S ALL "PANG" AND THEN SLIPS OUT AND "BANG"!!
Please give it a nice feel
WELL LET ME SEE. IT SHOULD HAVE A CELEBRATORY FEEL TO IT.
UHH...
UM... WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW ABOUT THAT?
COLD SWEAT
...
AT THIS RATE, IT'S RISING
ARE YOU GIVING HER THAT?
OF COURSE NOT.
PANG
IT'S COMING OUT
BANG
SO...
OLDER BROTHER...
...

Yo...
YOSUKE? LET'S CALM DOWN.
I'M ALWAYS CALM.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT ALWAYS TRUE.

NO! PLEASE WAKE UP!
WHEN I LOOK IN YOUR EYES, MY HEART BURNS.
BEEP BEEP
THEY'RE JUST FLIRTING. THERE'S NO PROBLEM.
SHOULD WE HELP HER?
WOW... IS YOSUKE SLEEPWALKING AGAIN?
OH!
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I'M ACTUALLY ALMOST FORCING HIM.
BUT YOU KNOW... EVER SINCE YOSUKE SHOWED UP, THE DISCIPLINE AND MORALS OF THE MASSAGE CLUB HAVE REALLY STARTED TO ERODE.
YOU SHOULD TALK!!
BESIDES, HE'LL PROBABLY FALL ASLEEP SOON ANYWAY.
SLUMP
Bed!

BUT OUR MANAGER HAS BEEN ACTING REALLY ANXIOUS LATELY.
HEY...
...HAS THAT THING ARRIVED?
...
N-NO! WE HAVE NO IDEA WHEN IT'LL COME!!
NO.
I... I SEE...
WHEW!
CORRECTION: HE'S BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD.
We can't let down our guard!!
...TO LET ME MASSAGE HIM!!
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S ALL MASSAGE, ALL THE TIME
THIS IS THE MASSAGE RESEARCH SOCIETY CLUB.
EVERYBODY HAS CONSIDERABLE SKILLS AND DEVOTES A LOT OF TIME TO IMPROVING THEM.
* THIS ILLUSTRATION IS WRONG

DON'T WORRY!! IT'S NOTHING AT ALL!!
PANIC
WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "IT"?
HMM.. IT SEEMS LIKE THE OLDER STUDENTS KNOW ABOUT IT.
I WONDER WHAT IT IS.
THIS IS REALLY WEIGHING ON MY MIND.
SLIDE
WELL, WHATEVER I'LL GO EAT LUNCH..
EEEE! YOSUKE IS PLAYING SOCCER!!
GO YOSUKE!!
HE'S AS POPULAR AS EVER.
THAT'S RIGHT.

MY MASSEUR'S SOUL TINGLES JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!!
I LOVE THE BACK!! THE HIPS, THE ARMS, AND THE BACK!!
SO IT'S REALLY JUST HIS BACK YOU CARE ABOUT.
YOSUKE MORIZUMI, WITH WHOM I AM GOING OUT RIGHT NOW; IS VERY HANDSOME! JET BLACK HAIR, AMAZING PROFILE, THAT DEVILISH GLANCE...
AND DID I MENTION? HE'S HANDSOME?!
KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP
OH!!
BUT MOST OF ALL... THAT BACK!!!
SWIVE
!!
IF THAT'S ALL IT IS FOR YOU, I FEEL SORRY FOR YOSUKE
HUH?
WHAT'S HIS HOBBY? HIS SPECIAL TALENT? THE THING HE REALLY, REALLY LIKES?
AH...
...
I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A WHILE.

LISTEN... BEFORE ANYTHING
...A GIRL COLLECTS INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON SHE LIKES.
Like this!!
Eeee. My birthday? Or is it a day after his That makes me happy!
It's gotten her favorite thing as a present
BUT IN YOUR CASE, CHIAKI
Let me massage you!
Eeek!
THIS IS NO GOOD.
That's almost awkward
...
Okay
It really is
OH!
SPARKLE
I JUST REALIZED...
? WHAT IS IT?
NOTHING THAT WOULD EMBARRASS YOU!!
BLUSH
FWAP
Wha?!
DO YOU... KNOW THINGS ABOUT MY OLDER BROTHER?
J'ACCUSE!
SHOCK
YOU KNOW, I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!!
YOU KNOW TOO LITTLE ABOUT YOSUKE !!
WHAT? YOU GIVE IN RIGHT AWAY

WHEN DID HE GET SO TOUGH?
...
OR, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY.
WITH THAT, I MADE IT MY MISSION TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOSUKE.
I was looking for him to ask for his vital stats
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
I can't get through.
WHO IS THIS?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! DON'T GET A BIG HEAD JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A LITTLE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE DOOR?
YOU'VE BEEN ANNOYING ME FOR AGES!!
WITH THAT DAMNED FACE OF YOURS!!
Shut up!!
Girls...
...

SOCK
APOLOGIZE FOR BEING SO STUCK UP!!
!!
THUD
...
GRIN
I REMEMBER NOW...
YOU ARE YEAR 3, CLASS 10, STUDENT 18, WATARU NAKAHARANO.
ASSISTANT CAPTAIN OF THE SWIM TEAM, YOUR HOBBIES ARE MAH-JONGG AND BULLYING YOUNGER STUDENTS.
ARE YOU ALSO STILL AFRAID OF HEIGHTS?

What Are Tsubo Spirits?
Simply put, they are the spirits of the tsubo.
There are many of them on people with stiff backs.
They are of no particular size, some of them are small and some are large.
Generally speaking, the stiffer a muscle is, the bigger the corresponding tsubo's spirit will be.
And all the tsubo compete every day to get their stiffness fixed as soon as possible!
(Just kidding.)
Yes! I'm the most stiff!!
Oh
YANK
Nooo, it's me!!
I just picked pretty often myself
FIGURE 1

I WONDER.
SMIRK
AAAA!
?!
I'LL...
UH...
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?!
Nobody should know about it.

I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY WITH THIS TODAY!
DASH
...
How annoying...
BUT I'D PROBABLY BETTER COOL IT DOWN.

SHOCK
HE DIDN'T ACT FLUSTERED AT ALL!
H-HE'S USED TO THAT!!
I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW THAT ABOUT YOSUKE.
...
...
ALL RIGHT.
...
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AT YOSUKE'S CLASS NEXT!
...

NOBODY'S HERE...
Huh?
I WONDER WHERE EVERYBODY WENT.
OH...
THAT'S YOSUKE'S DESK.
KA-THUMP KA-THUMP KA-THUMP
...
SCAN
SCAN
...!
SHIFF

BLUSH
!
...
Oh!
PLOD
...!
THIS IS...
THIS IS SO SILLY!
FWUMP
THUD
I ACTUALLY WONDERED.. IF I FELT YOSUKE'S WARMTH JUST NOW.
THE BLACKBOARD IS SO FAR AWAY.. I WONDER IF HIS VISION IS GOOD.
YOSUKE HAS THIS VIEW EVERY DAY DURING CLASS.
PEEL
...

...
GRAFFITI...
OH...
Panda?
No!
Yuuka Nanasumi has appeared. Lady-killer!
Did his friends do these?
WHAT'S THIS?!
Who did this?!
SLIDE
LURCH
LET ME SEE... HYDROGEN, HELIUM, LITHIUM, BERYLLIUM, BORON, CARBON, NITROGEN, OXYGEN, FLUORINE, NEON...
Umm...
OHHHH, I CAN'T REMEMBER!!
Somebody teach me!
...
What now?
I HAD TO HIDE...
MURMUR
MURMUR
OH... I'M SO TIRED.
WE HAVE A QUIZ NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
I can't study this much.
YOU KNOW WHAT

I SEE.. THE CLASS BEFORE THIS WAS SCIENCE
HEY! HE'S LAUGHING!
Huh
I was just about to think of it.
WELL, MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
You idiot
HEY! YOU CAN'T SAY THE ANSWER!!
SODIUM, MAGNESIUM ALUMINUM, SILICON, PHOSPHORUS, SULFUR, CHLORINE, ARGON, POTASSIUM AND CALCIUM, RIGHT?
Wow what an idiot.
That was weak.
THUNK
KICK
You're a real jerk!
Hey!
..SO VIOLENT
WUZZA
WUZZA
THIS IS.
IN A LOCKER
TAP
NOW THEN...
YOSUKE!!
HUH?

WHY IS HE TAKING OFF HIS CLOTHES ?!
BLUSH
HUH?!
PEEL
HMM, THE NEXT CLASS IS GYM...
I see.
OH NO!
NOW I'M STUCK HERE WHILE THEY CHANGE!!

EEEEK!
THUMP
LURCH
CLATTER
AAAAA!
HEY, DID YOU HEAR SOME-THING?
IT CAME FROM THE LOCKER.
HUH?
WOW...
BLUSH
PLEASE...
PLEASE DON'T CHANGE NOW...!

SHOULD WE CHECK?
I'M FINISHED!!
SQUEEZE
HEY.
FORGET THAT LET'S HURRY UP OR WE'LL BE LATE
OH YEAH!
THE TEACHER ALREADY HATES ME.
HURRY UP, YOSUKE.
...
I WAS SAVED...
STAGGER
STAGGER
...
YEAH, YEAH
RUN!

1-8
I FEEL KIND OF WOOZY...
AH... AH...!
I HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO...
...today...
AWKWARD
STIFF
OH!
I HAVE TO ESCAPE WHILE I HAVE THE CHANCE!!
HUH?
WELL, IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME...
BOW! BOW!
S-SORRY!! PLEASE EXCUSE ME!! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
...
SORRY!
NOD NOD
Oh...
...SO WE CAN'T WALK HOME TOGETHER?

TMP
YOSUKE...
WAS HE ANGRY?
Oh!
FREEZE
THIS IS NO GOOD..
I'm so embarrassed!
EVEN IF I RUN AFTER HIM, WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO HIM?!
DO YOUR BEST.
BLUSH
DEAD
...
OHHH..
Should we go somewhere?

SNEAK SNEAK
IT'S YOSUKE!
...
HM?
I SHOULD REALLY APOLOGIZE!!
THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT RIGHT TO KEEP QUIET!!
W-weirdo!
IF HE GETS ANGRY OR TREATS ME LIKE A WEIRDO...
Yup, yup
IMP IMP IMP
CLANK
Yosuke!
WHOOSH
HEY! YOSUKE IS GONE!!
He was here a second ago...
...
She made herself sad just imagining it
Weirdo...
SUB SUB
STAGGER...

Whoa!
...
He's so handsome...
FLAP
...
Hey ?!
YOSUKE?!
WHERE'S HE GOING?!
DASH

WHOA...
HUGE!
No, it's can t be like that This place is— more like a .
HERE
PEEK
...
IS IT A JOB? BUT HIS TONE OF VOICE...
...doesn't sound right for work...
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON.
HUH?
...

I WONDER IF I EVER DID.
WHAT'S HE DOING THERE?
PULL
!!
OUCH!
PUSH
SO TELL ME...
IT FEELS LIKE I DON'T KNOW HIM AT ALL RIGHT NOW.

...
Oh...
HUH?
...
...CHIAKI?
WHY ARE YOU SPYING ON ME?

TH-THIS IS MY USUAL AMOUNT OF PERSONAL SPACE!!
WELL, THAT'S FINE. BUT WHY ARE YOU STANDING OVER THERE?
I...
I'M SO SORRY!
I CAN'T GO NEAR HIM! IT REMINDS ME OF WATCHING THEM CHANGE CLOTHES THIS MORNING!
SO? HOW WAS IT?
...
What was that reaction?
WELL . DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING ABOUT ME?
HUH?!
What do you mean
I SEE... SO THAT'S WHY YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME AROUND.
...
Hmm

NOPE. NOTHING AT ALL.
Hey! What do you mean nothing at all?
Tee hee...
...
WELL... IT MIGHT NOT BE NOTHING EXACTLY...
BUT IT'S WEIRD THE MORE I LEARNED ABOUT YOU, THE MORE CONFUSED I GOT.
WHAT WAS THAT COMPANY? WHAT WAS HE DOING THERE?
I KNEW YOU HAD YOUR OWN WORLD...
CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT IT?
AND I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU, BUT...
REACH
SHFF
SHFF
CHIAKI.

TA-DAH!
LOOK.
...
MANJU...
I BOUGHT IT JUST NOW.
Though I guess it doesn't matter when
Pon
WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?
"A SWEET BUN FULL OF RED BEAN PASTE"
YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS ALL OF ME, BUT THEN YOU DISCOVERED A NEW PART.
NEW
ANYWAY... THINK OF ME AS A MANJU...
AND IT MADE YOU A LITTLE INSECURE, DIDN'T IT? YOU REALIZED THAT THERE'S A LARGE AREA YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEEN.
THE PART THAT YOU SAW UNTIL NOW WAS THIS PART.
YOSUKE'S SOUL

WELL, LET'S JUST SAY YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE MANJU'S SURFACE.
REALLY?
...
...
OH...
THAT EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE GETTING CLOSER TO ME, I STILL SEEMED REALLY FAR AWAY.
I DON'T KNOW MYSELF WHETHER I'M HIDING MY INSIDE OR NOT.
NO ONE CAN REALLY SEE THE INSIDE.
NO ONE CAN REALLY KNOW...
...EVERY-THING ABOUT A PERSON.
RIP
SEE? THERE'S STILL THE INSIDE PART.
HEY
THE INSIDE!!

WE CAN LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER LITTLE BY LITTLE.
There, a new one
I REALLY LOVE MANJU.
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING.
I JUST LEARNED ANOTHER NEW THING ABOUT HIM.
...I LOVE THEM TOO.
EVEN IF YOU FEEL INSECURE OR HURT.

...EXACTLY HOW LONG WERE YOU FOLLOWING ME, MS. CHIAKI?
SO...
I HOPE I KEEP LEARNING MORE AND MORE...
UH, UH, UH... STARTING JUST NOW!! I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO YOU WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF THE BUILDING!!
GRAB
EARLIER, IT WAS STICKING OUT OF THE LOCKER.
That gray sweater.
POINT
...
Wait...
SWEATER.
HUH?

GRAY SWEATER
YOU'RE KIDDING!
BUT... IT WAS DEFINITELY CLOSED...!
...
GRIN
YOU LITTLE PERV.
...
!!
AIIIIIIEEE!
HE TRICKED ME INTO CONFESSING!!

IT CAME AGAIN THIS YEAR.
AN INVITATION TO THE UNDERGROUND MASSAGE TOURNAMENT.
NATSUE...
TH-THIS IS...
MASSAGE RESEARCH CLUB
PLEASE GET EVERYONE TOGETHER RIGHT AWAY!

THE MAGIC TOUCH, PART 10 / END